



STEELE COUNTY
Soil and Water Conservation District

235 Cedardale Drive SE
Owatonna MN 55060
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www.steeleswcd.org

The regular monthly meeting of the Steele County Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors was called to order by Mark Ditlevson at 5:00 PM on Wednesday January 14, 2024 at the Steele County SWCD Office, 235 Cedardale Drive SE, Owatonna MN, 55060.

<u>SWCD Supervisors Present:</u>	<u>SWCD Staff Present:</u>	<u>Others Present:</u>	<u>Absent:</u>
Mark Ihlenfeld, Treasurer	Eric Gulbransen	Jim Smith, NRCS	
Dan Hansen, PR&I	Adam Arndt	Rick Gnemi, County Commissioner	
Dave Melby, Secretary	Adrienne Gransee	Teddy Moreno-Santos, NRCS	
Mark Ditlevson, Chairman	Ian Pringle	Roger Wacek	

The January agenda was reviewed, no changes were made.

The December minutes were distributed to the Supervisors prior to the meeting. Motion was made by Hansen, seconded by Melby, to approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried by voice vote.

The December Treasurer’s Report was read by Ihlenfeld. Motion was made by Melby, seconded by Hansen, to approve the December Treasurer’s Report. Motion was carried by voice vote.

Bills: (See attached) Motion was made by Hansen, seconded by Ihlenfeld, to approve paying the bills. Motion was carried by voice vote.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Meeting Reports – No-till Conference – Indianapolis – Mark Ditlevson reported on this meeting. He was particularly impressed by the presentation by Howard G Buffett about his experience introducing conservation practices in Ukraine.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Appointed Board Member – Due to other obligations Mike Klecker resigned from his position on the SWCD Board. The Board discussed people that had expressed interest in the position and decided that based on his history, previously running for the position and personal involvement in conservation that Brad Hagen would be the best choice. Motion was made by Hansen, seconded by Ihlenfeld, to accept this appointment. Motion carried by voice vote.

NEW BUSINESS:

2. Reorganization of the Board of Supervisors – With the addition of a new Board member it was decided that a Board reorganization would be appropriate. Positions were discussed and agreed upon as listed below.
 - Chairman – Mark Ditlevson
 - Vice Chair – Dave Melby
 - Secretary – Dan Hansen
 - Treasurer – Mark Ihlenfeld
 - PR&I – Brad Hagen

3. Committees and Appointments – The Board discussed who was currently on each committee and decided to make no changes from what was set in 2023.
 - Personnel – Ditlevson & Ihlenfeld
 - Budget & Planning – Ihlenfeld & Melby
 - SE Joint Powers – Ihlenfeld
 - CRWJPB – Hansen
 - Zumbro 1W1P - Hansen

4. Annual Approvals and Designations – The Board reviewed the current designations and made no changes. Motion was made by Melby, seconded by Hansen, to approve the designations as listed below. Motion carried by voice vote.
 - Primary Financial Institution – United Prairie Bank
 - Official Newspaper – Steele County Times
 - Official Radio Station – KOWZ
 - Authorized Grant Signer – Eric Gulbransen

5. Dues & Contribution – Motion was made by Hansen, seconded by Ihlenfeld, to approve the dues and contributions as listed below. Motion carried by voice vote.
 - MASWCD - \$7,077.92
 - JPB – \$3,000.00
 - CRWJPB - \$5,000.00
 - Envirothon - \$175.00

6. Soil Health Winter Workshop – February 22 – Torey’s Restaurant, 8:30am – 2:30pm – Adam Arndt gave the Board an overview of the agenda and encouraged the Board to attend.

7. SWCD Day at the Capital – March 12-13 – Adrienne Gransee gave the dates of the event to the Board and will be providing more information once it becomes available.

Agency Reports

Rick Gnemi gave a brief report on the truth in taxation meeting. It was widely attended by local farmers, some of whom have seen a significant increase in their taxes recently.

Jim Brady informed the Board that Claire McCanne resigned her post with the Extension and will be moving to a new position with the University of Minnesota.

Teddy Moreno-Santos told the Board that the Equip sign-up deadline had been extended. He gave them a summary of the CSP applications that have been received, including 8 for the newly available forestry practices. They are currently focused on ranking the applications at this point in time.

Jim Smith has been primarily focused on completing estimates for projects and assisting with scoring applications.

Staff Reports

Eric Gulbransen has been focused mostly on county ditches and getting things established with the new county auditor.

Adam Arndt has been working on completing eLink reporting as well as helping with the tree program. He is also working on a presentation for the Owatonna BeeFriendly group that will be taking place on February 3rd at the library. Arnt gave the Board an update on the Buffer violations that are currently in the process of moving through the system.

Ian Pringle continues to make training in various areas his primary focus. He is also involved with the tree program and will be presenting at the BeeFriendly event.

Adrienne Gransee has been working on year end reports as well as eLink reporting. She gave the Board an update on the 2024 Envirothon with location and tentative dates.

Motion to Adjourn: Motion was made by Hansen, seconded by Melby adjourn the meeting. Motion carried by voice vote.

Respectfully Submitted by,



Adrienne Gransee,
Administrative Assistant

January Bills

Cedardale Development Co.	January Rent		\$792.00
Cedardale Development Co.	1st Quarter Garage Rent		\$600.00
TriM Graphics	Mailing Services		\$260.66
Elan	Registration Refund	-\$610.00	
	New Laptops	\$3,386.59	
	Meals	\$91.04	
	Hotel - Convention	\$503.68	
	Postage	\$285.00	
	Wix - email upgrade	\$29.00	
	Phone	\$87.24	
	Gas	\$81.68	\$3,854.23
MCIT	2024 Coverage		\$6,305.00
		Total	\$11,811.89